

## President's Report to the Faculty Senate – March 4, 2015

1. Nominations for the 2015 Robert E. Jirsa Service Award are closed. The selection committee received eight nominations and has asked the nominees to indicate willingness to be considered for the award.
2. The first monthly breakfast meeting of the Provost and FS Executive Committee was held on Tuesday, March 3, restoring the practice of enhancing communications between the FS and Administration.
3. University Dialogue hosted by President Papazian on Tuesday, March 3, to share details of fiscal crisis.
  - Our enrollment has declined by 9.4% over the last three years, reducing annual income by \$6.5-7M (a loss of around \$750,000 for each 1% decrease in enrollment).
  - Last year's 2% increase in tuition was supplemented by over \$4M in non-recurring state appropriations.
  - Expenses continue to rise, including an increase in over \$6M for salary and fringe. Other expenses include costs of opening the expanded library and new science building.
  - The Legislature has not finalized its funding decisions, but the spending cap leaves few options.
  - Our annual operating budget is around \$200M. Our reserve is very low.
  - Assuming flat enrollment and the proposed level of state appropriations, with a 2% tuition increase we will be short an unprecedented \$10M for FY 16.
  - State funding for our institution is now around 33% of operating funds.
4. The periodic Faculty Survey of Administrative Effectiveness has been distributed electronically, with a closing date of March 13. A paper option is available. Thank you to Dr. Gayle Bessenoff and the Personnel Policy Committee for accomplishing this task. Please urge your constituents to participate.
5. Faculty Academic Strategic Plan Comm. (FASP) members are serving on Strategic Planning committees:  
**Excel:** Misty Ginicola, Sean Grace, Robert Page, David Pettigrew | **Innovate:** Glenda DeJarnette, Marybeth Fede, Sanja Grubacic | **Impact:** Jessica Kenty-Drane, Wafeek Abdelsayed, Jian Wu | **Empower:** Peter Madonia, Paul Stepanovic
6. Notification: The Department of Science Education and Environmental Studies has notified the FS of its application to change its name to the Department of Environmental and Marine Studies. The Dean of A&S has endorsed the proposal. Senate action is not required. Endorsement would be in order.
7. The Faculty Dialogue (*Defining "Teacher-Scholar": Exploring Faculty Workload and Life Balance*), will be held in **EN B121**. March 26, 2015, 12:30-2:00 PM. Please encourage colleagues to attend.
8. Transform 2020 update:
  - We need to nominate an SCSU faculty representative to the new Transform Steering Committee.
  - The Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) to the Board of Regents passed a resolution (Feb. 20, 2015) calling upon the CSCU Administration to "*fulfill its pledge and make its intention explicit by providing a vision statement and a rationale for change that can be reviewed, discussed, and debated by all stakeholders—students, faculty, staff, administrators, the legislature, and the public—in a democratic process!*" (back of page.) The resolution is presented for FS endorsement.
  - Next meeting of the CSU Faculty Leadership Group: Sat., March 7, 2015, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, CCSU.
9. Invitations are going out to tenure-track faculty members hired in the past three years for an April 2 luncheon meeting, *Shared Governance, Balancing Expectations, Becoming Engaged: A Conversation with Newly Hired Faculty*, where shared governance, faculty participation and more will be discussed.
10. The University is about to order 100,000 copies of the Student Opinion Survey. Dr. Michael Ben Avie, Office of Assessment and Planning, has offered to meet with a delegation of the FS to discuss ideas for possible improvements to the default survey.

11. Guidelines for the Graduate School Graduate Assistantship were changed for the next round of awards. An explanation was sent by Dr. Gregory Paveza, Dean, School of Graduate Studies.
  - Faculty members, not students, apply for the award.
  - Applications identify a project, not a student.
  - Successful applicant faculty members can use the award as a recruiting tool.
  - Deadline for applications is Friday, March 6.
12. Last year, the FS and SCSU-AAUP conducted a very successful end-of-year Faculty Retreat. Approval of the Senate is sought to initiate planning of a retreat for this year in cooperation with the AAUP.
13. The Faculty Advisory Committee to the BOR is sponsoring an all-day conference: "Hurdles on the Horizon: Governance & Student Success in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System". Friday, April 10, 2015, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM, Manchester Community College (60 Bidwell Street, Manchester, CT 06040). This event provides an opportunity for members of the faculty from across the 17 institutions to spend a day together discussing vital issues facing our system. The keynote speaker, Dr. Hank Reichman, Chair of the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee of the AAUP.
14. President Mary Papazian has accepted our invitation to address the FS at its March 25 meeting.
15. Dr. Peter Madonia and I will be meeting with Provost Bergeron on Thursday, March 5, to discuss department guidelines for faculty evaluation, preparatory to FS *ad hoc* committee consideration of re-establishing department guidelines.
16. In conversation with President Gregory Gray this morning I learned that in response to the current fiscal situation, the system is about to initiate a total hiring freeze. The details (effect on searches where offers have been made, effect on searches in progress, etc.) are being determined presently.

<b>Status of AY 15 Faculty Senate Resolutions</b>					
<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Resolution to/on/for...</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Disposition</b>	<b>Pres.' Comments (abbrev.)</b>
F-14-01	9-24-14	Grade Appeal Procedures	Approval	Noted	Noted. Will be considered in conj. with new grade appeal process, when drafted
F-14-02	10-20-14	Sabbatical Leave Document Technical Fixes	Approval	Pending	
F-14-03	10-30-14	Hiring of Dean of School of Graduate Studies Without a National, Affirmative Action Search	Information	NA	
F-14-01R	10-30-01	Grade Appeal Procedures	Approval	Pending	
F-14-04	12-10-14	2015-2025 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives	Information	Noted	Resolution is premature and attempts to pre-empt strategic planning process. Should be re-directed to Strategic Planning Committee.
F-14-05	12-10-14	Location of School of Health and Human Services Building on SCSU Campus	Approval	Disapproved	Resolution is factually incorrect and attempts to pre-empt the Master Facility Planning process.
S-15-06	2-4-15	TA Allocation for the Remaining Academic Year 2014-2015	Approval	Pending	
S-15-07	2-25-15	New Language for Grade Replacement Policy	Approval	Pending	

**Remaining Spring 15 Meetings: March 25, April 8, 22, and 29 (if needed)**

<p><b>Faculty Senate Themes.</b> ■ Promote and support the strategic vision of the University. ■ Build a stronger working relationship with administration, grounded in the principles of shared governance. ■ Advocate the support of University leadership for increased opportunities and fiscal resources for faculty scholarship and research. ■ Work to ensure the academic integrity of the Institution in supporting academic excellence and advancing the success of our students. ■ Honor the commitment and enthusiasm of the faculty through a strengthened sense of community.</p>
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Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education

February 20, 2015

FAC Resolution on Opacity

**WHEREAS** President Gray pledged in his first days in office in the summer of 2013 to bring an ambitious plan for change to the state legislature and the Governor;

**WHEREAS** the Board of Regents contracted with Boston Consulting Group for \$1.97 million in April 2014 "to implement an integrated strategic plan;"

**WHEREAS** President Gray in his speaking tour of the colleges and universities early in the fall of 2014 to promote the initiatives included in Transform CSCU 2020 pledged to bring the plan to the state legislature and the Governor, but repeatedly failed to reveal the underlying intent of the plan;

**WHEREAS** President Gray stated before a committee of the state legislature in December 2014 that the system did not yet have a plan but had a set of ideas and initiatives that would serve as the foundation of a plan entitled Transform CSCU 2020;

**WHEREAS** President Gray further indicated in that December meeting with the state legislature that Transform would seek to realize a once-in-a-century opportunity for a revolutionary change in higher education;

**WHEREAS** a change in organizational capacity, structure or processes of a public state agency that could reasonably be described as "revolutionary" ought to be subject to a spirited, public, and democratic discussion by the public, the legislature, the taxpayers, and the affected constituencies;

**WHEREAS** by October 2014 Boston Consulting Group had invoiced and been paid the full \$1.97 million described in the contract;

**WHEREAS** the October 2014 invoice from Boston Consulting Group to the Board of Regents stated that BCG had drafted and refined "the CSCU ambition statement," and drafted "half of [a] strategic plan including introductory chapters (letter to CT community, executive summary, case for change, strategic planning and community involvement, introduction to Transform initiatives), two initiative chapters (organizational effectiveness and shared metrics), and conclusion chapters (what success looks like, path forward, acknowledgements);"

**WHEREAS** the Faculty Senates at each of the four state universities recently endorsed a document that indicated lack of support for several initiatives in current form and also indicated that most of the remaining initiatives should be based on the campuses rather than administered through a centralized state office;

**WHEREAS** the system administration continues to move forward on the initiatives despite the lack of support from the faculty governance bodies and despite the lack of a systemic review and vote by the Board of Regents;

**WHEREAS** innumerable hours by students, faculty, and administrators have been wasted trying to divine the intent behind the myriad initiatives and 743 milestones, as the aim of Transform CSCS 2020 remains shrouded in opacity;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Faculty Advisory Committee calls on the system administration to fulfill its pledge and make its intentions explicit by providing a vision statement and a rationale for change that can be reviewed, discussed, and debated by all stakeholders--students, faculty, staff, administrators, the legislature, and the public--in a democratic process.